

Health Equity Task Force

February 1, 2021 Public Hearing

Welcome

This is the second public hearing (of three public hearings) of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force members
2. Announcement re: 3rd Public Hearing & Future Task Force Meetings
3. Public Testimony

1. Introduction of Task Force Members

Senate Appointees

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz

Senator Julian Cyr

Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq., Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

Dr. Milagros Abreu, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

Dr. Cassandra Pierre, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

Dr. Frank Robinson, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

Hirak Shah, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Appointees

Representative Carlos González

Representative Liz Miranda

Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

Jeffrey Sanchez, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

Beverly Stables, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus

Representative Chynah Tyler

Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus

Representative Donald H. Wong

Next Health Equity Task Force Meetings

February 2 (3:30 - 5 PM) Virtual Meeting

Description: This meeting of the Health Equity Task Force will focus on health and health equity data and dashboards, including presentations from Connecticut and the Hope Initiative.

February 8 (2 - 6 PM) Public Hearing #3

Description: The 3rd Public Hearing will receive additional diverse and inclusive stakeholder testimony. We extend the invitation to additional stakeholders to testify. Advance registration for oral testimony is due by Wednesday, February 3rd at 5PM via dfox@challiance.org and mmccallister@massleague.org.

February 16 (3:30 - 5 PM) Virtual Meeting

Description: This meeting of the Health Equity Task Force will focus on draft recommendations for the Final Report.

Oral Testimony & Ground Rules

- We are pleased of the high level of interest in testimony: **19 panels of over 60 people.**
- It is important to us that everyone's testimony is heard. So, we ask that those presenting today stay within their 3 minutes in order to hear from everyone.
- Task Force Members should have your cameras on throughout the hearing.
- The Co-Chairs will recognize each panel sequentially to turn on your video and audio to testify. To transition to the next panel, the panel listing will briefly be shown on screen.
- **Then, each person will have up to 3 minutes for oral testimony. Please summarize your testimony and try not to repeat points made by others.**
- **A staff person will be visible on the screen (with a sign) to signal when 30 seconds remain and again as time has elapsed. Please be sure to wrap up your remarks then.**
- Once the panel's testimony is concluded, the panel will be excused.
- Please mute your line and turn off your video after your testimony.
- The Co-Chairs will then recognize the next panel.

Written testimony is also encouraged. Please email in PDF format to:

mmccallister@massleague.org and dfox@challiance.org

Panel 1 Testimony: Elected Officials

- **Rep. Tackey Chan**, Second Norfolk District
- **Rep. Marjorie Decker**, Twenty-Fifth Middlesex District, and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- **Senator Sal DiDomenico**, Middlesex and Suffolk District
- **Mayor Brian Arrigo**, Revere (*available at 1:30PM*)

Panel 2 Testimony: Language Access at State Agencies

- **Rep. Adrian Madaro**, First Suffolk District
- **Jessenia Espinoza Menendez**
 - Gloribel Rivas, Legislative Aide (for interpretation)
- **Dawn Sauma**, Co-Executive Director, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
- **Rose Zhang** (alias), ATASK Client
 - Yi Lam, ATASK Advocate (for interpretation if needed)
- **Iris Coloma Gaines**, Statewide Language Access Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Panel 3 Testimony: Health Care & Community Perspectives on COVID-19 Disparities and Opportunities

- **Dr. S. Atyia Martin CEM**, CEO & Cofounder All Aces, Inc. on behalf of the Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition
- **Doug Brown**, Chief Administrative Officer, UMass Memorial Health Care

Panel 4 Testimony: La Colaborativa - Perspectives from Chelsea

- **Gladys Vega**, Executive Director of La Colaborativa
- **Norieliz de Jesus**, Director of Policy and Organizing of La Colaborativa
- **Dinanyili Paulino**, Chief Operating Officer of La Colaborativa

Panel 5 Testimony: COVID-19 in the Latinx Community - A Call for Action - The Benefits of a Community Partnership

- **Milagros Abreu, MD, MPH**, Executive Director, The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
- **Christy Rodriguez**, Patient Navigator Coordinator, The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
- **Eliot M Yaffa**, Community Development Administrator, City of Framingham
- **Dr. Faina Shtern**, President and Founder the AdMech Tech Foundation

Panel 6 Testimony: Immigrant Agenda

- **Eva A. Millona**, President and CEO, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- **Anh Vu Sawyer**, Executive Director, the Southeast Asian Coalition (Worcester)
- **Ronnie Millar**, Executive Director, Rian Immigrant Center (Boston)

Panel 7 Testimony: Older Adults

- **Dr. Serena Chao, MD, MSc, AGSF**, Chief of Geriatrics and Director, House Calls Program, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Dr. Hollis Day, MD**, Chief of Geriatrics, Boston Medical Center
- **Candace Kuebel**, Executive Director, MassPACE Association

Panel 8 Testimony: Deep Poverty

- **Deborah Harris**, Senior Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- **Naomi Meyer**, Senior Attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services

Panel 9 Testimony: Bilingual Community Health Outreach Specialists Initiative

- **Triniese Polk**, Director of the Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement, Boston Public Health Commission
- **Jeff Gross**, Senior Advisor, World Education Services; Consultant, MIRA Coalition

Panel 10 Testimony: Perspectives from the Lynn Community and Lynn Community Health Center

- **Paola Rodriguez**, Medical Assistant, Lynn Community Health Center, and Lynn resident
- **Latisha Goullaud**, Peer Recovery Coach, Lynn Community Health Center, and Lynn resident
- **Esther MacKenzie, RN, FNP**, Lynn Community Health Center, and Lynn resident
- **Birgitta S. Damon**, Chief Executive Officer, LEO Inc. Leading through Empowering Opportunities

Panel 11 Testimony: Data Collection and Reporting and Social Determinants of Health

- **Kara Hurvitz, Esq.**, Health Law Advocates
- **Maddie Ribble**, Director of Public Policy & Campaign Strategy, Massachusetts Public Health Association
- **Sean Cahill**, Director of Health Policy Research at the Fenway Institute

Panel 12 Testimony: Behavioral Health Equity

- **Benjamin Le Cook, PhD, MD**, Director, Equity Research Lab
- **Valeria Chambers, EdM, CAS, CPS**, Black Voices: Pathways 4 Recovery

Panel 13 Testimony: Health Care & Community Perspectives on COVID-19 Disparities and Opportunities II

- **Dr. Galina Tan, MD** Cambridge Family Health/North Primary Care, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Dr. Tia Tucker, MD, MPH** Family Physician, Malden Family Medicine Clinic and Director of Health Equity, Tufts Family Medicine Residency, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Sarah Matathia, MD**, Associate Medical Director of the Medicaid ACO, Massachusetts General Hospital / Massachusetts General Physicians Organization
- **Regina LeRocque, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School
- **Dr. Lachlan Farrow, MD**, Senior Fellow, Harvard Medical School Center for Bioethics

Panel 14 Testimony: Oral Health and Asian Health

Oral Health

- **Nadeem Karimbux, DMD, MMSc**, Dean at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine

Asian Health

- **Chien-Chi Huang**, Executive Director, Asian Women for Health

Panel 15 Testimony: Local Public Health

- **Bill Murphy, MS, RS, CHO**, Director of Public Health, Sudbury Board of Health and VP, Massachusetts Environmental Health Association
- **Michael R. Hugo, JD**, Government Affairs, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards

Panel 16 Testimony: Housing = Health & Housing Stability

Housing = Health

- **Sarah Koolsbergen**, Housing = Health
- **Lady Lawrence Carty**, Housing = Health
- **LaShyra Nolen**, We Got Us

Housing Stability

- **Andrea Park**, Housing and Homelessness Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- **Kelly Turley**, Associate Director, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- **Caroline Ellenbird**, Coordinator, Chelsea Anti-Displacement Roundtable

Panel 17 Testimony: Special Populations and COVID-Related Equity Concerns

- **Maura K. Sullivan, MPA**, Director of Government Affairs - The Arc of Massachusetts and Program Director/Instructor, Operation House Call
- **Ellen Leigh**, Disability Rights Advocate
- **Rhoda Gibson**, Co-Founder, MassAdapt

Panel 18 Testimony: Mental Health

- **Susan Fendell**, Senior Attorney, Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
- **Jennifer Niles**
- **Thomas Brown**
- **Sonja Styblo, MSW**
- **Naomi Pinson**

Panel 19 Testimony: Occupational Safety & Health and Emergency Paid Sick Leave

- **Al Vega**, Director of Policy & Programs, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH)
- **Enid Eckstein**, Raise Up Steering Committee

Thank You for Your Testimony!

Please Submit Written Testimony to:

Donna Fox (dfox@challiance.org) and Morgan McCallister (mmccallister@massleague.org) with the subject line: "Health Equity Hearing Written Testimony."